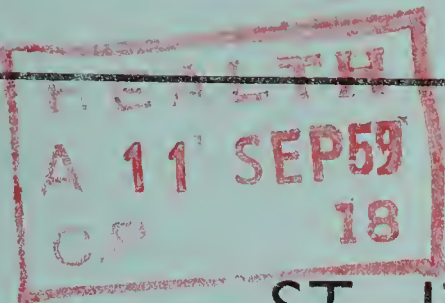


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ST. IVES (HUNTS.)
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR 1958



The Ridley Press, St. Ives, Hunts. and Cambridge

LIST OF PARISHES IN THE COUNCIL'S AREA

Bluntisham	Hilton
Broughton	Holywell-cum-Needingworth
Bury	Houghton and Wyton
Colne	Oldhurst
Earith	Pidley-cum-Fenton
Fenstanton	Somersham
Hemingford Abbots	Warboys
Hemingford Grey	Wistow
Woodhurst	

Saint Ives Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council:

Revd. Nelson Trafford.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

G. Kiddle, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

D. B. Wright, Esq.

Vice-Chairman:

Revd. N. E. Marshall.

Members:

E. H. Alderson, Esq.

Mrs. M. Banks

Mrs. A. R. Buck

J. Burgess, Esq.

A. Dale, Esq.

M. P. Denny, Esq.

R. W. Giddins, Esq.

J. W. Harris, Esq.

C. D. Hutchcraft, Esq.

S. E. Ireland, Esq.

A. E. Ivatt, Esq.

R. Johnson, Esq.

H. E. Parren, Esq.

Mrs. W. M. Price

R. G. Saint, Esq.

R. L. Stocks, Esq.

Miss V. M. G. Thackray

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

G. H. Phipps, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

G. M. Clifford, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.I.Hsg.

Administrative Assistant:

F. W. Palmer.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE RURAL DISTRICT OF
SAINT IVES IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1958.

To:— The Chairman and Members of the
St. Ives Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1958.

There has been no major change in the general health of the population of the district as judged by an examination of the statistics for the year under review.

The Birth Rate, while showing a fractional increase over last year's figure, still remains just below the average for England and Wales as a whole.

The Death Rate on the other hand although slightly higher than in 1957, still stands considerably lower than the national average. It is a point worth noting that of the 141 deaths which occurred in the district during the year 8 were caused by malignant diseases of the lung and bronchus—twice as many as occurred last year from the same cause. All eight were males and all were quite heavy smokers of cigarettes or tobacco.

Measles accounted for approximately 75 per cent of the notifiable infectious disease in 1958, most of the cases occurring at Wyton R.A.F. Station in the first and second quarters of the year. Vaccination against poliomyelitis continued throughout the year with increasing momentum, the eligible age group having been extended to include persons up to the age of 26 years.

Little progress was made with the Slum Clearance programme this year but the Council's proposals for the rehousing of the tenants to be displaced as a result of the Filbert's Walk Clearance Order proceeded in a satisfactory manner.

No further Main Drainage Schemes were commenced during the year but the need for these remains as great as ever and it is hoped that the scheme for Houghton, Wyton and the Hemingfords will commence in 1959/60.

There was no shortage of water from any of the sources from which the district is served but the demand continues to increase for both domestic and industrial purposes.

In conclusion, I should like to thank members of the Council for their kindness to me during the year, and all the Officers of the Council for their continued help and co-operation.

I am, Your obedient Servant,
J. CALDWELL,
 Medical Officer of Health.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
 OF THE AREA**

General Statistics

Population (middle 1958)	...	...	15,310
Population (middle 1957)	...	...	15,670
Area	...	...	45,911 acres
Rateable value	...	...	£146,564
Sum represented by a penny rate			£604 . 1 . 7
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	4,351

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	129	104	233	Birth-rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	4	4	8	estimated population 15.7
	—	—	—	(Ditto for England
Total	133	108	241	and Wales) 16.4
STILL BIRTHS				
Legitimate	3	2	5	Birth-rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	-	-	-	estimated population 20.3
	—	—	—	(Ditto for England
Total	3	2	5	and Wales) 21.6
DEATHS				
(all ages)	81	60	141	Death-rate per 1,000
				estimated population 9.2
				(Ditto for England
				and Wales) 11.7

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...
Illegitimate	...	...	...
	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...
	—	—	—

Death-rates of Infants under 1 year	
All infants per 1,000 live births	...
(Ditto for England and Wales)	...
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar General's List)

List No.	Causes					M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	0	0
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	0	0
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	1	1
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	8	0
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	0	1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	6	11
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	0	0
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	0
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	...	...	...	11	13
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	13	9
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	2	6
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	11	8
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	3	2
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	0	0
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	0
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	0
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	2	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	0	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	3	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	0	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	6	4
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	2	0
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	4	2
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	0	0
Total all causes						81	60

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following laboratory facilities have been available to the authority and to General Practitioners in the area.—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst, S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C., Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 2097.

(b) Ambulance Services

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders. Tel.: Huntingdon 348.

(c) Home Nursing

Nurse-midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended maternity cases,

- (i) A nurse residing in Warboys (Tel.: Warboys 224) attended cases in Warboys, Wistow and Broughton.
- (ii) A nurse residing in Bluntisham (Tel.: Earith 225) attended cases in Somersham and Pidley.
- (iii) A Nurse residing in Hemingford Grey (Tel.: St. Ives 2128) attended cases in the Hemingfords, Fenstanton and Hilton.
- (iv) A Nurse residing in Woodhurst (Tel.: Warboys 327) attended cases in Wyton Aerodrome, Woodhurst, Oldhurst and Upwood.
- (v) A Nurse residing in St. Ives (Tel.: St. Ives 2228) attended cases in Houghton and Wyton villages.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres

(i) The following Health Services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Health Clinic. Station
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m. 1st Monday in month. 2-4 p.m. 2nd Tuesday in month. 2-4 p.m. 1st Wednesday in month. 2-4 p.m.	Approach, St. Ives. Ditto. Constitutional Hall, Fenstanton. Methodist Room, Somersham. Baptist Chapel, Warboys.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren, Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	3rd Friday in month. 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2.30-3 p.m. Every Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-12 noon 1.30 - 4.30 p.m. Every Saturday 9 a.m.-12 noon	Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives. 10A Princes Street, Huntingdon.

(ii) The following health services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board:-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday. 10 a.m.-12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Mondays, 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays, 4-6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge
	Males:	Mondays, 5.30-7 p.m. Wednesdays, 5.30-7 p.m.	Out-Patients Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
	Females:	Tuesdays, 10.30-12 noon Thursdays, 5.30-7 p.m.	
Orthopaedic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	Every Tuesday 10 a.m.-12 noon. (Surgeons by appointment).	Old Grammar School Huntingdon

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2-3 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patients' Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) Hospital Services.

Fever. Cases of Infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough and Ely.

General Hospital Services were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases were admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon and Mill Road Hospital, Cambridge.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

							Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							135
							—

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1958 **45**

Pulmonary: **34**

Non-Pulmonary: **11**

AGE PERIODS				New Cases—Diagnosed				New Cases—Transfers			
				Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	I	I	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	2	..	..	I	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	..	I	I	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..				4	2	0	I	0	2	0	0

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

1. (1) **Water.**—Water is supplied to the district by the Ramsey and Saint Ives Joint Water Board, the Chesterton and Saint Ives Joint Water Board and by Huntingdon Rural District Council.

Agreement was reached with Huntingdon Rural District Council to increase the bulk supply to the district from 39,000 gallons to 66,000 gallons per day at a cost of 1s. 4d. per 1,000 gallons, subject to adjustment in the rise and fall of present day costs.

A request was received from Saint Ives Borough Council for a supply of approximately 10,000 gallons per day to be made available from the Council's main at Houghton Hill. Negotiations on this were still proceeding at the end of the year.

The conferences with adjoining Local Authorities on the re-grouping of water undertakings were completed during the year. After consideration of the reports on the discussions the Council decided to support the following recommendations :-

(a) A new Joint Board be established to supply Chesterton Rural District (excluding the parishes within the Cambridge Water Works area) South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council, Saint Ives Rural District Council, Saint Ives Borough Council, and Ramsey Urban District Council; the new Board to take over all existing sources of supply within these new boundaries, but the individual Local Authorities to be responsible for distribution within their own areas.

(b) The Council further decided to press for direct representation on the body ultimately established as a result of re-grouping.

Later, representatives of the Council discussed these proposals at the Ministry, on which the Minister's decision is still awaited.

The rainfall during the year as officially recorded at the Royal Air Force Station, Wyton, was 26.96 inches, approximately 5 inches above the annual average for the district.

June was the wettest month with 5.24 inches and August too was unusually wet, 3.74 inches being recorded.

The supply to all the parishes was adequate but as the demand continues to increase distribution problems have become apparent and these are receiving the attention of the Council.

The possibility of boosting the supply through Warboys to Wistow Reservoir was also being considered by the Ramsey and Saint Ives Joint Water Board.

Routine samples from various points in the district indicated that the purity of the water was satisfactory. 112 samples were taken by the Water Department during the year of which 5 were unsatisfactory. Subsequent samples taken from the same place proved to be satisfactory.

1. (2) **Drainage and Sewerage.**—Although the Somersham Main Drainage Scheme was completed in 1957, it is regretted that little progress was made in 1958 on the Council's schemes for other villages in the district.

The residential development in the area has been relatively substantial and the need for main drainage is greater than ever, not only to deal with the Council's Housing Programme but also those Estates now being developed by private enterprise.

It became apparent during the year that the Council's Housing Programme was certain to be delayed due to the absence of main drainage schemes; as a result, the Council's Consulting Engineers were requested to prepare detailed schemes for Needingworth and Fenstanton.

Following a request from Saint Ives Borough Council, the possibility of constructing a disposal works at Holywell or Needingworth for the treatment of sewage from the Borough and these villages was explored by the Council's Consulting Engineers, who reported unfavourably on the proposal, which was abandoned.

Although the scheme for Houghton, Wyton, Hemingford Abbots and Hemingford Grey was prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers and submitted to the Ministry, considerable delay has occurred in obtaining the sites required for pumping stations and negotiations with the respective owners for their purchase are still proceeding.

The only scheme in operation, viz; Somersham, is working well.

As the number of lavatory conversions in the village increased, the efficiency of the filters and the final effluent showed considerable improvement.

Regular field tests of this effluent are carried out at the works and the results indicate that the treatment is satisfactory.

The small disposal works built to deal with sewage from the Council's Housing Estates were not altogether satisfactory, due, in the main, to insufficient maintenance, which difficulty has been overcome in 1959.

The disposal works at Oldhurst, purchased to treat sewage from Warboys, has been maintained in working order although at present it is dealing with only a very small quantity of domestic sewage.

2. Rivers and Streams.—The River Ouse which flows through the district is controlled by the Great Ouse River Board.

Owing to the exceptional rainfall in the summer, its normal placid flow reached winter level and several hundred acres of agricultural land were inundated in the riverside villages and substantial damage was done to growing crops.

Broughton Brook also caused flooding in the village, some residential property being affected.

Many applications from Parish Councils and other Authorities relating to the cleansing of village ponds and minor watercourses and ditches in the area were received during the year. Where it was known that these were polluted with sewage, the Council either arranged for their cleansing or decided to make a contribution towards the cost of work in accordance with their established policy.

During the year a Writ was issued against the Council for a declaration that the Council were responsible for the maintenance of a watercourse in the parish of Holywell-cum-Needingworth, and for damages.

This Writ was subsequently amended at the instance of the Plaintiff, by the inclusion of the Attorney General as relator on his behalf and the Huntingdonshire County Council as Defendants with the Council.

The Council decided to defend the action and the case when finally determined should do much to clarify the obscure position which has arisen on the maintenance of Awarded Watercourses.

3. (1) Closet Accommodation.—The conversion of the existing pail lavatories at Somersham has continued and by the end of the year work on 145 properties including Council Houses had been completed.

Grants of 50% of the approved costs of conversion were made by the Council under its powers under the Public Health Act, 1936. The total grants made under the above Act amounted to £3,542 . 10 . 0 which represents an average of £24 . 8 . 0 per conversion.

Conversions in other parts of the district were almost wholly confined to properties which were the subject of Improvement Grants, which are reported on later, and to Council House Estates where it was considered that such conversions were possible, adequate arrangements for the treatment and disposal of sewage being already available.

The total number of conversions during the year was 175.

3. (2) Public Cleansing.

(a) Night-soil Collection.

A weekly collection of night-soil is carried out over the whole of the district by means of two 750 gallon Yorkshire Karrier Tankers which are fitted with night-soil attachments. Approximately 1,900 pails were emptied each week.

Great difficulty was experienced in the disposal of night-soil, which was aggravated by the wet summer and the waterlogged state of the land. Each year less agricultural land is available for surface disposal and it was therefore decided to build straw compost beds at Oldhurst Sewage Works. Without these it would have been impossible to dispose of the night-soil during the winter.

The effluent from these beds is drained to the sludge drying bed sump and is pumped back very slowly through the works for treatment. With careful dosing and dilution it was found that a satisfactory effluent could be produced, which would have been impossible if the night-soil had been introduced directly into the sewers.

By arrangement with Huntingdon Borough Council, night-soil is collected from Hartford and Huntingdon, but it is anticipated that the present contract will be reduced as the main drainage scheme at Huntingdon comes fully into operation.

Night-soil is also collected by contract from Saint Ives Borough Council, approximately 90 houses in the Borough being served twice per week. This service is carried out as far as practicable after dark.

(b) Cesspool Emptying.

The same vehicles are used for cesspool emptying as are used for the night-soil service.

The number of cesspools emptied increased again in the year to 644. This reflects the need for main drainage schemes

as the majority of the houses served would be on the line of any new sewers that would be provided in the villages.

The charges for the service have remained unaltered from the time they were first fixed in 1950, namely, 25/- for each 750 gallon load, and a sliding scale reducing the charge for additional loads.

The service is made available to neighbouring Authorities for desludging sewage tanks and gully emptying and to private individuals in adjacent districts at a higher charge.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The weekly kerbside collection of house refuse throughout the district continued during the year and a satisfactory service was maintained. Two 12 cubic yard moving floor vehicles and one 15 cubic yard 'dual tip' diesel driven vehicle, are used for the collections.

The Council again considered the possibility of a house to house, as distinct from a kerbside, collection, but decided against any change in the present method, on economic grounds.

The refuse is tipped at two worked-out gravel pits situated at Somersham and Hemingford Grey, where the refuse is spread and levelled by bulldozing, but only limited quantities of earth are available for sealing.

Periodic disinfestation is undertaken to control rats. Insecticides, both powder and spray, are used to minimize nuisance from flies and crickets.

The volume of refuse is steadily increasing, especially paper and cardboard, but owing to labour costs and the restricted market for baled waste paper it was not felt that any expenditure on salvage operations would be justified.

3. (3) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(a) Housing Inspections:—

Under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	288
Re-inspections	...	...	41
Number of Preliminary Notices served	...	...	58
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	...	...	49
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	—

It was not found necessary to issue any statutory notices in respect of these inspections except in relation to those houses which are being dealt with under the Council's Slum Clearance Programme, the majority of the defects found being remedied after an informal approach to the owner concerned.

(b) Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937:—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	10	13	Nil	Nil
2. Section 7	43	50	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—
Total	53	63	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—

The following defects were found as a result of the inspections:—

		Number of cases in which defects were:—		
		Found	Remedied	Referred
Defect				To H.M. Inspector By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness		0	0	0 0
Overcrowding ..		0	0	0 0
Temperature ..		0	0	0 0
Ventilation ..		0	0	0 0
Drainage of floors ..		0	0	0 0
Insufficient sanitary accommodation		1	1	0 0
Defective sanitary accommodation		0	1	0 0
Other offences ..		1	1	0 0
		—	—	— —
Total ..		2	3	0 0
		—	—	— —

Following a request from the Ministry of Labour and National Service, a list of Factories where Certificates as to Means of Escape in case of Fire had been issued by the Council was forwarded to the Regional Offices of the Ministry.

It was apparent that there was some discrepancy between the Council's records and those maintained by the Ministry. These have now been resolved. No proceedings were taken against any of the occupiers of Factories in the district and the premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(c) **Inspections under Regulations, etc.:—**

Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Dumps, tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Butcher's premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	121
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Pumps, wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	194
Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	157
Housing sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
General Public Health	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Meat from outside district	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Petroleum stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
After infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Food Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	147
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	123
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	195
Main Drainage Schemes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Total									1539

As a result of the inspections recorded above, 58 informal notices were served on owners and occupiers of the premises concerned requesting them to comply with the relevant Acts and Regulations.

The infringements found were of a minor character and were rectified after a request to do so had been made by the Department.

It was not found necessary to issue any Statutory Notices.

3. (4) Caravan Sites.

As in other parts of the country there has been a growing demand for caravan sites, and close co-operation has been maintained with the County Council as the Planning Authority, to co-ordinate as far as possible, the conflicting and indeed obscure provisions of the Town Planning and Public Health Acts.

Six existing licences for the siting of caravans in the district were renewed during the year.

One new site for 11 caravans was also licensed subject to the provision of reasonable facilities.

The attention of the Town Planning Authority was drawn to unauthorised development of a caravan site at Oldhurst.

In addition to the larger sites, 27 licences for the stationing of single caravans throughout the district were granted by the Council.

3. (5) Swimming Baths.

There are no public baths in the area. The Education Authority however, make arrangements for school children in the district to visit baths in the City of Cambridge.

A number of people continue to bathe in the River Ouse, many reaches of which are heavily contaminated with sewage.

That there is a definite need for Swimming Bath in the area has been accepted by the Council and the discussion with the Saint Ives Borough Council on the provision of such baths continued during the year but no final decision was reached.

3. (6) Rodent Control.

The Pest Control Organisation of the Agricultural Executive Committee was disbanded during the year, and the Council again considered its policy in regard to its responsibilities under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. It decided not to engage a full time Rodent Operater but to continue the existing arrangements for the Foreman of the Public Cleansing Staff to deal with complaints of infestations and to engage outside Operators, when required, to undertake the clearing of major infestations.

HOUSING

(a) Slum Clearance.

Owing to pressure of work it was not possible to continue the vigorous slum clearance programme undertaken during the previous two years, when 213 houses were represented as Unfit.

The Council's programme, submitted to the Ministry in October 1955, estimated that there were 326 houses in the district which could be dealt with under the Slum Clearance provisions of the Housing Acts, and the following table shows the progress made up to the end of the year:-

Total number of houses represented as Unfit (Including Clearance Orders)	...	209
Total number dealt with by informal action	...	7
Number of Demolition Orders made (Including Clearance Orders)	124	
Houses demolished as result of informal action	5	
Number of Undertakings accepted	84	
Number not yet demolished	3	
	216	216
Number of houses demolished	...	56
Number of Demolition Orders Quashed	...	1
Number of Undertakings cancelled	...	6

(b) General.

The following table shows the progress made in the erection of both Council and privately owned houses since 1946 :-

						Council houses completed	Private houses completed
1946	...	...	...	...	...	18	10
1947	...	...	...	...	...	47	29
1948	...	...	...	...	...	50	19
1949	...	...	...	...	...	47	15
1950	...	...	...	...	...	47	21
1951	...	...	...	...	...	25	8
1952	...	...	...	...	...	56	2
1953	...	...	...	...	...	50	23
1954	...	...	...	...	...	74	23
1955	...	...	...	...	...	63	17
1956	...	...	...	...	...	15	36
1957	...	...	...	...	...	25	43
1958	...	...	...	...	...	21	41
						538	287

The number of private houses erected in the area was maintained during the year, the bulk of the development occurring in the Hemingfords.

The Council's Housing Programme was delayed owing to the fact that the Ministry was unable to sanction the erection of further houses in Needingworth and Fenstanton until adequate provision had been made for the treatment of sewage.

However, 21 houses were completed during the year and the Council decided to build a further 47 dwellings, 23 of which were under construction.

In addition the development of further small sites was postponed until the drainage problems had been solved.

The total number of council houses and bungalows at the end of the year was 956, and it seems probable that the 1,000th house will be completed in 1960.

Approximately 1 in 4 of all the houses in the district are owned by the Council.

The Council have decided to modernise the pre-war houses and this work has commenced.

A direct labour staff consisting of a foreman and 8 men carry out all the normal maintenance work on the Council's houses with the exception of external painting which is carried out by contract.

Improvement Grants.

The number of applications increased during the year; i.e. 30 against 23 the previous year.

Of these, 3 were refused by the applicants.

Grants amounting to £5,647 were made, which gives an average of £209 per house.

Since the adoption of the improvement grant scheme by the Council, grants to the total value of £26,816 have been made to owners in respect of 135 houses; an average of £200 per house.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.

The bulk of the milk in the district is supplied by two firms, both of whom operate high temperature short time pasteurisation Plants.

Dealers and Supplementary Licences authorising the sale of milk under special designations were granted as follows:-

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	...	7
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	6
Pasteurised	...	...	7
Sterilised	...	...	6

The district has been specified by the Minister as one in which only designated milk can be sold.

Information from Bedford Borough Council regarding complaints of extraneous substances found in milk bottles filled at a Pasteurisation Plant was passed to the County Council for any action they deemed necessary as the Licensing Authority.

(b) Ice Cream.

There are no manufacturers in the district, and all the ice cream sold consists of pre-packed brands manufactured and distributed by well-known firms.

The Council decided to support the Milk Marketing Board's objection to the draft Ice Cream Regulations and for the use of the term "Cream" to be restricted to products containing Milk.

(c) Meat and Other Foods.

Number of licensed Slaughter Houses	...	4
-------------------------------------	-----	---

Number of Butcher's Shops	...	9
---------------------------	-----	---

Practically all the home killed meat sold in the area is slaughtered outside the district, the licensed slaughterhouses only being used for the occasional slaughter of pigs and sheep.

During 1958, 6 sheep and 27 pigs were slaughtered, all of which were inspected and found to be free from disease.

A variety of Foods were examined during the year including a 1,000 cases of apples found to be heavily contaminated with Arsenic and Lead. These were imported from the

Lebanon and consigned from Hull Port Health Authority to a fruit packing station in the district. The fruit was washed and scrubbed, and released after further sampling showed that the arsenic and lead contents were below the permitted maximum.

Small quantities of tinned food were condemned, including 2 tins of cooked Ham (weight 20 lbs) and 4 tins Minced Pork (weight 16 lbs).

Food Hygiene Regulations.

The food premises in the district have been classified as follows:-

Baker's	...	...	...	...	6
Butcher's Shops		...	...	...	9
Café's and Canteens		...	...	...	9
Confectioner's	...	...	...	...	1
Fish Shops ...	...	...	...	...	5
General Stores	...	...	...	...	54
Greengrocer's	...	...	...	...	2
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	36

The shops are generally small, very few shop assistants being employed. The premises have continued to show improvement and occupiers are becoming increasingly aware that the customer very much appreciates all the steps being taken to protect food from contamination.

No proceedings were instituted during the year for offences against the Regulations.

Adulteration.

Huntingdon County Council are the primary Authority responsible for the administration of those provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to adulteration.

No special circumstance arose where it was considered that any action could, with advantage, be taken by the Department.

